

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cleaning unit for removing toner remaining on a surface of an image carrier of an image-forming apparatus, comprising:

a vibration member extending in a direction of a width of the image carrier, the vibration member having at least one vibration application part attached thereto;

a blade member attached to at least an end region of the vibration member, the blade member extending in the direction of the width of the image carrier; and

a driving part configured to drive the at least one vibration application part at a driving frequency, the driving frequency being a natural resonance frequency occurring at a time of assembly of the blade member and the image carrier,

wherein the vibration member is configured to provide vibration to the blade member and a force to press the blade member against the image carrier.

Claim 2 (Original): The cleaning unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the driving part is configured to be capable of changing the driving frequency.

Claim 3 (Original): The cleaning unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the driving frequency of the driving part is set based on frictional resistance between the blade member and the image carrier.

Claim 4 (Original): The cleaning unit as claimed in claim 3, wherein the driving frequency of the driving part is set based on a coefficient of friction of the surface of the image carrier.

Claim 5 (Original): The cleaning unit as claimed in claim 3, wherein the driving frequency of the driving part is set based on rotational torque of the image carrier.

Claim 6 (Original): The cleaning unit as claimed in claim 3, wherein the driving frequency of the driving part is set based on a result of detection of a cleaning characteristic.

Claim 7 (Original): The cleaning unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one vibration application part includes a piezoelectric element.

Claim 8 (Original): The cleaning unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the toner is polymerized toner formed by polymerization.

Claim 9 (Original): The cleaning unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resonance frequency is determined by the blade member and the image carrier.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process cartridge freely attachable to and detachable from a main body of an image forming apparatus, comprising:

at least one of an image carrier, a charging unit, a development unit, and a transfer unit; and

a cleaning unit configured to remove toner remaining on a surface of the image carrier,

the cleaning unit including:

a vibration member extending in a direction of a width of the image carrier,  
the vibration member having at least one vibration application part attached thereto;

a blade member attached to at least an end region of the vibration member, the  
blade member extending in the direction of the width of the image carrier; and

a driving part configured to drive the at least one vibration application part at a  
driving frequency, the driving frequency being a natural resonance frequency  
occurring at the time of assembly of the blade member and the image carrier,

wherein the vibration member is configured to provide vibration to the blade  
member and a force to press the blade member against the image carrier.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An image-forming apparatus forming an image by  
electrophotography, comprising:

a cleaning unit configured to remove toner remaining on a surface of an image carrier  
of the image-forming apparatus,

the cleaning unit including:

a vibration member extending in a direction of a width of the image carrier,  
the vibration member having at least one vibration application part attached thereto;

a blade member attached to at least an end region of the vibration member, the  
blade member extending in the direction of the width of the image carrier; and

a driving part configured to drive the at least one vibration application part at a  
driving frequency, the driving frequency being a natural resonance frequency  
occurring at the time of assembly of the blade member and the image carrier,

wherein the vibration member is configured to provide vibration to the blade  
member and a force to press the blade member against the image carrier.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An image-forming apparatus forming a color image, comprising:

a plurality of process cartridges freely attachable to and detachable from a main body of the image forming apparatus,

the process cartridges each including:

at least one of an image carrier, a charging unit, a development unit, and a transfer unit; and

a cleaning unit configured to remove toner remaining on a surface of the image carrier, the cleaning unit including:

a vibration member extending in a direction of a width of the image carrier, the vibration member having at least one vibration application part attached thereto;

a blade member attached to at least an end region of the vibration member, the blade member extending in the direction of the width of the image carrier; and

a driving part configured to drive the at least one vibration application part at a driving frequency, the driving frequency being a natural resonance frequency occurring at the time of assembly of the blade member and the image carrier,

wherein the vibration member is configured to provide vibration to the blade member and a force to press the blade member against the image carrier.

Claims 13-42 (Canceled).